

ANXIOUS TO DESERT SAMOA

CLEVELAND AND OLNEY INDULGE IN
MORE QUEER DIPLOMACY.

THEY WANT TO WITHDRAW THE UNITED STATES
FROM THE BERLIN AGREEMENT-IG-
NORED BY GERMANY.

Washington, Nov. 8.—The Administration has again ventured on the troubled sea of diplomacy and met with disaster. As in former cases, notably that of Hawaii, it endeavored to bring about

tions. This time the effort was directed toward Samoan affairs. The President sought, through the State Department, relief from the rights and duties imposed upon the country under the Berlin

lin Treaty. His intention was to give up the many advantages that accrue to the United States in pursuance of the terms of that act in return for relief from numerous responsibilities and consequent petty expenses and annoyances that devolve upon the country as a result of such

benefits. Stated in a word, the President, speaking through Secretary Olney, has proposed to Germany that the Berlin Treaty be abrogated on the ground that the provisions of the agreement imposed conditions unsatisfactory to the United States. Germany's reply to the proposed

United States. Germany's reply to the proposition has been received at the State Department. To the consternation of the authorities, it merely acknowledges the receipt of Secretary Olney's note.

The story of this, the latest Administrative

blunder--for such it will be regarded by every one who is familiar with the Samoan situation--is interesting. President Cleveland has, as is well known, persistently endeavored to free his Administration from the obligations of the Berlin Treaty. His efforts in this direction may be

said to have begun in 1888. In his message to Congress in December of that year he announced that King Malletoa offered to place Samoa under the protection of the United States, that the American Consul assumed to grant it, but that the proceeding was disavowed under instructions from the State Department.

tions from Washington and the offending Consul recalled. That was a great but lost opportunity for the country in the minds of such men as Senators Sherman, Lodge, Davis and Morgan. In the same message the President made the state

ment—which is quite inconsistent with his present views—that, under changes of personnel then contemplated, "the peace, prosperity, autonomous administration and neutrality of Samoa can hardly fail to be secured."

THINKS IT AN ENTANGLING ALLIANCE.

But it has been during his present Administration that Mr. Cleveland has been most earnest in his public expressions condemnatory of the workings of the treaty which makes the United States one of three Powers to control the affairs of the Pacific. On several occasions he has

spoken emphatically of what he called the mistake of this country being involved with Germany and England in Samoa, and "the impolicy of entangling alliances with foreign Powers."

A fact which is not generally known is that Senator Gray, in April, 1894, tried to get the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations to adopt the President's views concerning the country's Samoan relations. At that time Senator Gray proposed the idea of abrogating the Berlin

Treaty, and thus relieving the United States of its obligations under that act. His wishes were not carried out, Senator Morgan, of his own party, besides all the Republicans on the committee, opposing them. He sought to influence

the committee by some long-winded correspondence which had accumulated in the State Department touching Samoan affairs. These letters he obtained through a resolution calling upon the State Department to furnish them. Senator Gray was then known to be acting for

the President. The failure of his committee to act favorably upon his suggestions was therefore an indirect rebuff to the Administration. It has been said that Senator Morgan quoted some of the words of the President in his special message to Congress, dated January 11,

1880, in objecting to any action by the Senate looking to the withdrawal of this country from the Berlin Treaty. The words he quoted were "This group of islands lies in the direct highway of a growing and important commerce between the United States and the United States."

The Senate committee seriously considered Senator Gray's proposition, and, upon deliberation, rejected it on the ground that while there

might be some annoyances and expenses to the country connected with the execution of the provisions of the Berlin act, the advantages gained under that treaty greatly outweighed the disadvantages.

COUNTING WITHOUT THE SENATE.

It was not until recently that the President decided to take the matter in his own hands and endeavor to secure a release for the Government from the tripartite agreement. He will, of course, be criticised for his course b

Congress. It is said by his apologists that he regarded the situation as calling for immediate action, but the Senate will undoubtedly say no to this. When all the correspondence on the subject becomes public it will appear that the Administration has exaggerated the importance of

many petty matters, and in considering this has lost sight of the one main point. That is that Germany probably and England possibly would get exclusive control over Samoa if the United States withdrew from the tripartite agreement, and thus control the destiny of the

The exact date when Secretary Olney, speaking for the President, wrote to Ambassador Ullrich is not known.

is not known. That detail is unimportant, now
ever. What Mr. Olney said is of consequence.
He informed Mr. Uhl that the obligations of
the Berlin Treaty had become irksome in the
extreme, and that this country sought to be
relieved of the embarrassment and expense that

its provisions entailed. He proposed, therefore, that the treaty be abrogated. He was willing enough that Germany and England should adhere to the agreement, but said that the United States wished to withdraw. His reason for making the proposition was stated in some detail, but the effect of it was that the Berlin Treaty imposed conditions upon this country which

Germany's reply must have been highly mortifying to the Administration. Mr. Olney's note was under consideration at the Berlin Foreign

Office for more than a week. The answer was exceedingly brief. It was so short, and curt as to be discourteous. It was merely an acknowledgment of the receipt of the note of the distinguished Secretary of State of the United States. It did not say yea or nay about the proposition to abrogate the Treaty of Berlin. It only said that

The Berlin Treaty is specific as to the manner of abrogating its provisions. Its terms are binding on the United States, Germany and England.

They supplant treaties between the islands and any and all of the three signatory Powers, and where the act conflicts with special treaties provisions are to prevail. No article of the agreement can be changed without the approval of the three Powers, and all are to continue in force until changed by the three countries. England

would probably agree to allow the United States to withdraw, but Germany has declined. Therefore, the Administration, despite its preference will have to continue to perform the duties imposed by the treaty.